

A
LETTER

To the RIGHT HONOURABLE

HUMPHRY FRENCH, *Esq;*

Present LORD MAYOR of the

City of *DUBLIN.*

By Sir *W. F.*



D U B L I N :

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LETTER

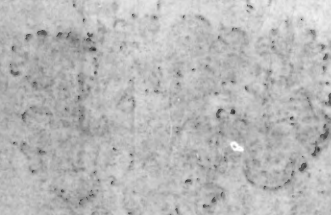
To: Right Honourable

HENRY FRANKLIN

FRANKLIN

CITY OF DUBLIN

BY



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A

LETTER, &c.

My LORD MAYOR,



YOU have set out with a great deal of Courage and Credit for the Honour of this City, and as it is the second in his Majesty's Dominions, it does the more concern your Lordship, and every Member of it, to imitate the great Metropolis *London* as near as we can whose good Government is so highly commended.

We cannot pretend to compare in Grandure, as wanting the Substance, nor is it in our Power to imitate them in their strict and regular Government, altho' this is often reflected upon us as owing to our own Negligence; and yet I never could hear of any of those who complained, that ever took the Pains to enquire and consider of the vast Difficulties the *Lord Mayor* and *Magistrates* lie under in this City, different from what they do in *London*.

The City of *London* has neither Court nor Courtiers, no Nobility, and but few Gentry in Places, few Judges or Lawyers inhabiting within their Walls; their Gates are secured, and Watches set at regular Hours, their Streets are quiet and Citizens in Bed, no Coaches nor Chaires plying, no Noyse of Footmen or drunken Sparks. Persons abroad on extraordinary Occasions, or Coaches all are strictly examined, and if any abusive Language be given, the Watch secures such Offenders.

The Case of the City of *Dublin* is quite the reverse. The Court is in the heart of our City, our Nobility and Gentry are intermixed Inhabitants; with numbers of Servants and Dependants, besides we have a College with about four Hundred Students. It is for the Accommodation of these, that Coaches and Chaires ply almost all Nights, Taverns, Publick-houses and Coffee-houses are kept open most part of the Nights, and a continual Noise, and Quarrels often ensue; numbers passing and repassing the whole Nights long, lewd Women tempted
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to strole about to meet with those disorder'd by Drinking, &c.

The Watches little regarded and when they would examine and prevent Disorders, they are frequently overpower'd and abused.

There is a Guard of Soldiers in the Castle, and a Horse guard in the heart of the City, and for our better Security, a Main-guard in a street near it.

The Barracks with Horse and Foot also in our Suburbs. These contribute to increase the Number, and keep Taverns open, and some are abroad in our Streets in the Night. When a Reformation can be made of these Irregularities by Nobility and Gentry, and those in Power, it will be possible for our *Lord Mayor* and *Magistrates* to bring this City into as regular a Government as that of *London* and not before.

The Main-guard which I have mentioned to be kept in the City, was first appointed (as I have been informed) at the Desire of the City, there being no regular Watches established till of late Years by Act of Parliament, the City have been at a yearly Charge to pay the Rent of a House for the Guard, and keep it in repair, provide Fire and Candle, &c. about 50 *l. per Annum*.

It was expected that after the Watches were well settled; that Main-guard might have been withdrawn; and a Main Watch fixed there instead; the Trouble saved to the Army and the Charge to the City: but (as I have observ'd)

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our Circumstances are such, by the Irregularities aforesaid, that our Watches have not been sufficient to secure us by Night, and having no Militia in order (for want of Officers willing to serve, or others to obey) who might assist us by Day against Mobbs as there is in *London*, ready on the first Notice to sally out; we are still obliged to the Army for our Security, and thus we live between a civil and military State, the Drums beating in our Streets, the Tapt-too in the Evenings, walking Rounds, and Patrolling; things which would frighten the whole City of *London*.

These I say, being consider'd, how can it be expected that the Government of this City should be as Regular as that of *London*?

Since this is truly our Case, your *Lordship* and the other *Magistrates* and *Officers* of the City, can only do what remains in your Power.

We have had the Assistance of several Acts of Parliament, the better to enable the *Lord Mayor* to oblige the stubborn and perverse to conform to Rules, we have had one or more Acts for the better amending Pavements, an Act for regulating Night Watches. An Act for preventing incroachments by Bulks and Cellar Stairs projecting into the Streets, by which Stairs some have lost their Lives. An Act for better supplying the City with Water. An Act for securing our Walls bounding the River, and for Lights to serve the City by Lamps, &c.

Besides

Besides such as regulate the buying up of Bread, Corn, and assizing of Bread. with others relating to Weights and Measures, and Butter Casks, &c.

All which were intended for the good of the City, and to strengthen the Power of the chief Magistrate, who altho' he had before sufficient to remedy many of these Grievances, yet the Perverseness of some, and disrespect of others, has been such, that one *Lord Mayor* has not been able by fair Means; to prevail on many to pay Obedience to his Orders.

The shortness of our *Lord Mayor's* Government, and that they of late Years having been Persons in Trade and Business, much depending on the number and favour of their Customers, and such by whom they were Gainers. No doubt, had such Influence, as made some unwilling to disoblige, or compel by Force, the observance of the Laws, in small Matters yet this gave a Handle to others to transgress and expect the like Favour, and this perhaps may have been the Reasons why some Laws have not been put in Execution effectually.

If so, we are not the only People in the Kingdom, who have solicited for Laws, and neglected the putting them in Force.

My Lord Mayor, I do not Question, but you will look into the several Acts I mention, and others respecting this City which I may have omitted: And that you will use your Endeavours to make them operate.

I think it my Duty to give my *Lord Mayor* my Observations of several Nuisances and Grievances, and to offer my Opinion how I conceive they may with the most Ease be redress'd.

As to the Watches. If the Act of Parliament had declared that such Inhabitants as would undertake to officiate as Constables for the Night Watches, should be exempted from serving any Warrants, appearing at Sessions unless called upon on extraordinary Occasions of Murder or Treason.

There being sufficient of other sort of Constables to serve all Warrants in the Day-time, our Watches would be more effectual. But our Case is such, that our Night Constables are generally Deputy's; and such as serve all common Warrants of the *Lord Mayor's* or Justices in the Day-time, and a mean idle drinking sort of Fellows generally and very uncapable to act as they ought to do on Night Watches. For the rudeness and ignorance of such Fellows, is often the Occasion of disputes in the Nights.

In *London* very good Citizens have served as Constables for the Watches, and their Neighbours generally (several of them) will sit up with them when their Turn comes, perhaps once in twelve or fifteen Nights to keep them Company.

And thus it might be with us, if the Act had express'd as I say, but no Citizen of any Note, will serve by himself now, because of being lyable to be called upon in the Day-time, to serve such Warrants, attend the Judges and Sessions,

Sessions, the Lord Mayor when he calls, &c. the Speaker in Parliament time, Troubles not to be undergone by any Tradesman of Credit; and altho' the Lord Mayors have offered and declared they will not expect Attendance of those Constables that serve on the Watch; yet this Assurance neither has, nor will give Satisfaction, so as to encourage good Citizens to serve in that Station.

As to the Acts for Regulating and Mending our Pavements, I can safely say it from long Experience and Observation, that I have not known one Inhabitant of twenty that would readily comply with the Orders given by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs, for Amending or Regulating their Pavements (at the time those Magistrates had a Power by the Act) but were always grumbling and calling it an Imposition, to do as much as was directed, or in the manner; so that without wageing War there was no compliance to be expected.

And the walking through all Streets to get every bit of broken Pavement mended, was too great a Task for Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and considering the multiplicity of other Business the Lord Mayor had upon his Hands, it is not therefore to be wonder'd (these Things consider'd) why our Pavements run worse out of Repair.

Which being taken into Cognizance of Parliament again, it was enacted, that the Lord Mayor should retain all the Powers he had singly, that Church Wardens and Overseers of the

Watch of each Parish should examine the Pavements four times in the Year, and measure such as wanted Repair, and make a Return to the Lord Mayor in six Days after, of such as ought to be mended.

It was hoped, that since this Act had made Church Wardens and Overseers of the Watch in each Parish Judges, what was proper for each Neighbour to do, in order to keep his Pavement good. All Cause of Complaints would be taken away, and the Lord Mayor have little Trouble.

If I am rightly informed, the Examinations of the Streets Quarterly have been so delay'd, and Returns so long deferr'd, and the issuing of Orders by the Lord Mayor, and employing an Officer on purpose to serve them to oblige Persons to mend their Pavements, has created near as much Trouble to the Lord Mayor as he had before, and has had as little Success.

My Lord Mayor will, no doubt, do all that lies in his power to remedy what has been amiss; but I fear Examinations and Amendments once a Quarter, will not answer the End, unless all Pavements were equally good at the Beginning of each Quarter, and would equally hold so. But it's daily seen, that Ashes and Rubbish are used in pitching the Stones, and only a little Gravel cast over, that the Inhabitants for mending parts of their Pavements will allow no other Stuff, nor Employ any for such Work to mend but poor ignorant Fellows, and oblige them to raise their Pavements as they direct.

direct. So that this sort of mending is continually breaking. No Pavements are allow'd in London but what are pitched in Gravel, and ramm'd and cover'd with Gravel; all other Sorts rot and wash away in foul Weather.

I have enlarg'd so much on this Subject, because the Nobility, Gentry and Citizens may see what Endeavours have been used by the Lord Mayors, and where the Faults lie, that our Pavements are not mended as fast as they want, and as well: I mean, because the Inhabitants are either so willfull, so covetous, or so regardless of their own, and the City's Credit and Convenience, that without compulsion, and being summon'd, very few will keep their Pavements in order.

Note. The City is obliged to mend such Pavements as are broke up, in order to mend the Water Pipes; but such Pavements soon sink, the Ground giving way, and the Inhabitants refuse to raise and mend such Places, not being obliged; for they say, this alone causes many Breaches in the Pavements, and to continue unattended enlarges them. The Remedy is, that the City Pavier ought in two or three Weeks, after such Pipes were mended, to view the Places, and to raise and make good such Pavements as sink, and for that purpose, to bring good Gravel to pitch the Stones in, and to cover them, and not to patch them as they do with any Ashes, or such like. How can it be expected Inhabitants shall mend such Pavements as the City Officers do ruin?

My Lord Mayor will see by the Proclamations issued by his Predecessors, how they proceeded. Unless the Inhabitants will have more Regard to what your Lordship shall publish, and the Orders you shall give for the Purposes aforesaid than hitherto has been done.

It is the Opinion of many knowing Persons; that this Work will not be done effectually, unless undertaken by some one Person appointed by publick Authority, as in the City of *Paris*.

I confess, that when the last Act was making I proposed, that instead of the Method by Church Wardens and Overseers, &c. The first Inhabitant on the Right Side, and first on the Left in every Street, should be made Overseer of the next eight or ten Pavements joining him, to see they were kept in order for three Months, or more; and so the like Overseers for eight or ten Pavements more on each Side the Street, with Power to oblige, or cause the Work to be done and paid for. That in Default, these Overseers shou'd be fined. I apprehend, that as these Overseers being the next Neighbours to the Inhabitants, would amicably agree to do as they were desired, or on their own accord, and not let their Neighbour be fined on their Default, and because it must come in their Turn to be Overseers in his Place: And I laid down a Method for one or more Inspectors, dependant on the Lord Mayor's Directions.

Next, to the Consideration of our Pavements, I recommend to my Lord Mayor, that of remedying the Incroachments on our Streets by Bulks

or

or Stalls, and by Cellar-Stairs; to give fresh Authority to our Lord Mayors, the Act of Parliament directs, that no Bulk or Stall shall project above two Foot from the upright of the House into the Street; and that no Cellar Stairs by their Steps shall project out farther; but that they should make the head way down to such Cellars to project into their Shops or Houses, which would make the Cellars more light-some and safe, without any Damage to Shops, &c.

As to old Shop Windows, if they exceeded the two Foot but a little, perhaps it was not intended they should be taken down and made narrower; but it was certainly designed by the Act, that no further, or other moving Stalls, Vessels, Tubs, Boxes, or ought else should be permitted by the Inhabitant to be set upon the Street without their Shops, and by which to receive Rent or Gratuity for setting part of the City Pavements which they had no Right to.

And the Act certainly intended, that the Steps of all Cellar Stairs, either old or new made, which project never so little beyond the Rale or Shop Window, should be immediately remedied by being taken down and alter'd, as the Act directs.

This being designed to prevent the Mischiefs which had often happened by Persons falling down, hurt or killed, as some had been. My Lord Mayor will see what little regard has been had to these Acts of Parliament, even by Shop-keepers,

keepers, in continuing the Bulks and Ingroachments on the Streets, notwithstanding the Proclamations issued, and frequent Applications made to them by the Lord Mayor.

My Lord Mayor will see, that even to the new built Houses, their Stalls and Rales are made to project out farther than the two Foot allow'd, and that their Cellar Stairs project a Step at least into the Street beyond their Shop Window or Rales, and this in many Places.

Box-makers are permitted to dwell and work in Cellars, even in *High-Street*, which must needs be very dangerous, when Shavings and Chips are about them, and they working by Candle and Fire-light.

There are Encroachments on the lower part of *High-Street*, where if there were none, is scarce sufficient for one Carriage to pass another, yet this place is on each Side so filled by moving Stalls or Bulks, that they will afford no more room but for one Coach or Cart to pass at a time, and the Owners are very angry if a Coach chanceth to touch their Stalls.

This your Lordship knows full well.

The Fruit-sellers who fix themselves under Shop Windows, and project their Baskets two Foot or more into the Street, and such as place themselves at Corners of Streets, on the Bridges, and in narrow Places.

These are one Cause of Stopages, and are Ingroachments on the Streets; some, no doubt, pay Housekeepers for Liberty of standing, altho' these Housekeepers have no manner of right

right to suffer them to stand where they do, but ought to send them to open Places or Markets. Yet if any Person, Coach, or Cart, chances to disturb or throw down any Basket with Fruit, they are in an uproar, and demand to be paid Damage, as if their Standing were their Shop. This has very often happened, and the Practice will be continued, unless prevented by your Lordship.

As I have occasion to pass frequently from the farther End of *St. James's-Street* along *Thomas-Street*, and so into the City, which, as I take it, is the greatest Inroad, I have been obliged, by the Stopages I have met with, to take Notice of the Nuisances and Grievances attending those Streets.

St. James's Street, because it was very broad, the City from the VVork-house, or near it, made a Crown Pavement thence to *St. James's Gate*, and keep it in order at their own Charge, and the Inhabitants on each Side of the Street have a separate Pavement and Kennel before their Houses, which they ought to keep in good Repair, and free and open for Carriages to pass as well on those Pavements as on the City's.

But they are generally so encroached upon by the Inhabitants placing, or suffering Brewers Drayes, and other Carriages, Butchers Blocks, Casks, and other Things to stand Night and Day thereon, besides Cart-makers and Coach-makers keeping Possession of their Part of the Street for mending and making Carriages.

VVhereby there is no passing for Coaches or Carriages on the side Pavements but very seldom, and in some Places, so that the City Pavement is the only Pavement made use of, which encreases the City Charge in frequent paveing, besides the Inhabitants cast upon the City Pavement their Dirt and Dung, most of which falls to the Scavengers share to remove, by being dispersed about the Street on purpose.

It may be worth Enquiry how the City's Pavement (so called) in *St. James's and Thomas Street* comes to be so very broad in the middle of the Street, and the side Pavements so narrow, especially in *Thomas Street*, and whether it was so at first time of paveing, or has been made broader by prevailing on Paviers.

Within *St. James's Gate* called *St. Thomas Street*, the Case is much worse, altho' it is narrower, yet the City Pavement is continued almost as broad as without the Gate, and the side Pavements to the Houses narrower than without, which side Pavements are continually taken up with either Carriages, Casks, or other Things set before their Houses, that neither side of that Street can be made use of by Coaches or Carriages which pass that way, but all such must keep on the City middle Pavements.

These Encroachments are a great Damage and Nuisance.

In *London* no empty Coaches without Horses and Drivers, or Carriages, are suffered to stand in the Streets, unless some Wagons taking in Loading, or Unloading sometimes, stand with-
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out Horses, or about the Custom house in *Thames-Street*, they have a way of sending all such to a place call'd the *Green Yard*, where the Owners pay all Charges, and a Reward to the Officer. If any Hackney Coachman or Carman quit his Coach or Cart unless to take his Fare in, or his Money, any Porter or other Person may mount the Coach or Cart, and take it to the *Green Yard*, and no Coachman or Carter dare resist him, and such Porter so doing is well paid. If we could send to our Work-house-yard all such Offenders, by means of Street-keepers, Poor-house Officers, or any others, we should soon have the Coachmen, Carmen, Chairmen and Draymen in better order, and the Street not stoped by their Absence in Cellars and Ale Houses.

In *Thomas-Street* there are several Inns on both Sides that Street, which altho' they have stabling for Horses, and lodgings for Country Carriers, yet have no Yards to set up their Cars in; but there will be sometimes twenty or thirty, more or less, Cars set up on an End before those Inns, as if that side of the Street was their Property, and so will remain a Day or more, untill loaded, and then soon comes a Succession of Cars.

Thus a great Part of that Street is wholly taken up on each side, and this Example makes all the Neighbours imagine, that these sides of the Streets are as much their Properties as their Houses; and this Presumption is attended farther with this Mischief, that as the Country Carriages which bring Necessaries to this City, such

as *Kilkenny Coals, Charcoals*, several sorts of small Timber Ware, Hoops, *Mount-mellick* Flags, and many other Kinds, might, and ought to range themselves on the side Pavements of that Street; yet they being so taken up, as I have observed, all such Carriages loaded, and standing for Sale, are obliged to stand promiscuously on the City middle Pavement, and in such Disorder (being helpless, and wanting Information and Assistance) that they very often are obliged to fill the whole City Pavement almost; so that neither Coach or Carriage can, in a long time, get Passage as far as the Market House.

About *St. Catherine's Church* and the *Glibb*, there are Incroachments and Nuisances in abundance, old Iron-sellers and Sellers of Saddler's old Ware, take up the Foot Passage joining the Church-yard Wall, and force Foot Passengers into the middle of the Street.

Car-sellers, and menders, set up their Cars and Ware on the middle of the Street almost; and constantly, as if it were their own Yard.

The Fish Women ought to be placed more backward, and those Cutlers Stalls, who spoil Trade, abolish'd.

I have a long Time and often recommended our having three Street-keepers or four, two at least, for the South, and one or two for the North side of this City, to have six Pounds per Ann. Salary, a Coat and Constable's Staff, and to be sworn Constables, to have besides all Horse-fitures incur'd by Coachmen, Chairmen, Draymen and Carmen. These to be under the Direction

rection of the *Lord Mayor*. The Business of one particularly to examine all Incroachments in *St. James's street* and *St. Thomas's street*, &c. to cause them to be removed, or to inform the *Lord Mayor* who refuse. To range all Country Carriages on the sides of those Streets, in order so as to leave the Middle free for Passage. To see the Salt-Fish Women rang'd more backward. To overturn all the Stalls of old Iron-sellers, or old Sadlers ware, which stand in the Pavement further out than the Stalls to the Shops allowed by Act of Parliament. And all Tubs and Vessels selling Oats, Meal, or any Grain on either side of the *Market-House*, if any such Vessels or Baskets were set out further than the Stalls allowed the House.

I have been told, that there is an Officer appointed to see, that as soon as any Horses are unloaded at the *Market-House*, they should immediately be removed to some Inns or other places. But I never saw such an Officer, or Horses or Carrs removed, tho' I have pass'd by an Hundred Market days and more, I still found the empty Horses and Carrs standing, the Passage filled, and no Room left for Draymen, Coaches or Carriages, till after a long Stoppage.

The Stocking-sellers, Fruit-sellers, and other sorts, crowd into the very Passage within *Newgate*; a Street-keeper might set them to stand back, and banish the Apple-sellers.

I never was for finding Fault without proposing a Remedy, nor would I have any else, if my Proposal does not please, and any other proves effectual, I am satisfied, so that a Remedy ensue

What I have observed to my Lord Mayor, is but from one Inlet into the City, I hope they who are acquainted with other inlets and abuses and nuisances in other places, will do their Duty in giving your Lordship their Observations.

As to the supplying the City with Water, it is a Matter of very great Concernment, and requires more Knowledge, than perhaps Citizens are capable of. I own my self a Stranger to the late proceedings of the Committee of the Water but that there have been great Complaints of want of Water in some Seasons of late Years I have heard, and the Answers made by the Turn Cocks have been, *that either Pipes were mending, or wanting, or the Water too scanty to supply all the Pipes.*

I must observe to your Lordship, that it has been wondered at, why the City would lay down so many Pipes in so many new Streets, and oblige People to pay Rent, when several Streets which had Pipes, were not well supply'd and when the City was not assur'd they could supply the Pipes they expected to be paid for.

I know that from six to eight Shillings a Week has been paid by some for buying Water for many Weeks in the last two or three Years.

I have heard that when the City formerly were paid a Rent for their Pipe-water by Sir *William Robinsen*, he was obliged to reimburse such as were forced to buy Water when he could not supply them.

When I was *Lord Mayor* in 1709, I visited our *Water Course* from beyond *St. James's-street*, and Pipes to the Castle, I observed the great waste made by *Lord Limerick's* Tenants who carried a Pipe of larger Diameter by two parts in three than might serve them for Tan-yards and such like uses, the surplusage ran to waste, and the City had no Remedy, nay, they being on the South side of *St. James's-street*, made private Agreements with Skinners, Brewers and others on the North side of the Street, to supply them with Water cross the Street, and for that end small Brick Sewers, or Water Courses were privately made by degrees in the Nights under Ground to convey Water to them; some of them being discovered to me, were demolished and they on the North side were obliged to take Branches from the City since, how it is now, and what Care is taken to prevent those Abuses I cannot tell: But I can remember some Years past, that having occasion to go into the Fields from the upper end of *St. James's-street*, down as far as *Tratling-street*,

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in that bottom I observed more of the City Water running down into Ditches than I did believe might serve many Streets of the City.

I found that most Pipes within *Newgate*, were laid into Cellars; I examined most of them in *High-street*, and *Castle-street*, and other Parts, &c. I observed that most of them had neither Cock nor Tap to stop the Pipe, nor Tubs or Cisterns to keep Water in, but as it came they took what they wanted and let the rest run into Common-Sewers.

So that by the Time the Water in the main City Pipe reached to *Cork-bill*, it was half imbezled, and so it might be in other Streets, consequently it must by this sort of means be so wasted, that some remote Streets from *Cork-bill* had not any, or but little of it.

In *London* I have been told, and I think, I never saw it otherwise, tho' I lived there many Years, that the water Branches to all Houses, were above Ground, and no Cocks permitted in Cellars.

They had no doubt, Reasons for this, First, that they might know who wasted Water, and next, that some waste being unavoidable, the Streets might have the Benefit in order to keep them sweeter and cleaner, for down the Kennels on each side the Streets may be seen fresh Water constantly running, so that by the sweeping of the Dirt from the Shops, and what lies near, into the Kennels, the Water carries it away and

and this saves a good part of the Charge and Trouble of Scavengers.

If our Branches were so ordered and the Inhabitants obliged by Pipes or Gutters to let all waste Water come into the Streets, we should find the same Benefit as London does in that point. But our waste Water from Cellars or back Yards is sunk for the most part into common Sewers.

If our City wants a new supply of Water, I am of Opinion that by help of a Mill plac'd above Bloody Bridge, very good Water may be raised out of the River to supply the North side or great part of it.

The Hucksters who have Pipes laid into their Cellars and into Shops, furnish many Houses near them with Water, which otherwise would have Pipes laid in them. How it is contrived, I cannot say, but I have been assured, that in many places these Hucksters shall have Water in plenty, when the Houses in the same Street, and near them have none.

Note, These Hucksters in Cellars, ought not to be suffered to sell any Liquors, but Milk and small Beer. But now they are become the Rendezvous of Servants, and the Ruin of many; here Coachmen, Chairmen and Footmen sit up and drink.

It is said the Turncocks have it in their Power in many places, to turn the Water on or off some Branches: And where the Owners of
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Turncocks have Cellars and Pipes, there Water is plentiful and sold by Pails.

In London the Water supplys the Pipes constantly for such Hours every day, and in that time they fill Leaden Cisterns and large Vessels to serve till next day. This Rule would greatly help us in the saving Water and Trouble.

I have been told, and am apt to believe it, that by Favour, or Fee, the Ferrils which are put into the main Pipe to fix the Branch to, are sometimes put in lower than is the common Rule and Order, the Owners of such shall have Water when others whose Ferrils are put in higher shall have none. For the Mains are not allways (I suppose) full nor perhaps half full.

If these Observations of mine, of what I formerly collected be of no use now, it is but my Labour lost.

As to the cleaning our Streets by our Scavengers Carts. I know the City is at a vast Charge and Trouble, and yet there are dayly Complaints against us. I may venture to say it, that we are at least by a quarter part at more Charge than we ought to be, besides the Time taken up more than need be by the vast quantities of Ashes, Filth, Dung, Rubbish, &c. cast out privately in the Nights into the Streets and spread among the Street dirt. And,

Notwith-

Notwithstanding the Act of Parliament directs, *no Rubbish to be brought out to lie in the Street above forty Eight Hours*, Yet it is brought out, laid in the middle of Streets, to make Mortar and left some Days and Weeks often, and if it proves dry Weather, the Dust flies into the Shops and spoils Goods; if it proves wet, and can't be got away in time it spreads about the Streets by Carriages going over it, and so falls to the Scavengers share.

When I was a Builder on College Green, and took down old Houses, Mr. *Mills*, the City Overseer of the Works, obliged me to take my old Boards and Pale in about eight or nine Foot from my wall, a Place to lay my Rubbish, till the Carts could take it away, which I had got ready.

I never could see that observed in the City since, altho' it is very needful, and that Carts should be got ready before the Rubbish is brought out to take it away, every Builder knowing the Time he shall want them.

The Numbers of Inhabitants in Cellars and Garrets, &c. cast all their Ashes and Filth, &c. into the Streets, and in *St. Thomas-street*, where there are sort of Inns, just room for stables and Horses, (as observed before) those make bold by Barrows full brought out in the Nights and mixed as the Street dirt, to find work for our Scavengers,

In *London* none dare to practice this, they have (as I am told) undertaking Scavengers for single Parishes, and they have Dust Carts so called, whose Owners give Notice to the Inhabitants to bring out their Ashes and Dirt made in the House, every House having a large Basket in which they keep their Ashes till the Carts come, and every House pays a small annual allowance for this Conveniency.

Our City cannot well be kept clean until this, or some such Course be taken, they do so contrive it in *London*, so that their Scavengers Carts are out in Summer by break of Day, and in Winter they work long before Day by help of Lanthornes, that a great part of it, if not all their Day's work is over before Noon, so that they seldom crowd or stop any Street as ours do.

As our Case now stands, I conceive my Lord Mayor, may so order it, that from the *Castle Gate* (if not from the *Tholsel*) down to the *Horse Guard* and down the *Blind Key*, by the *Custom House*, and to the *Post Office*, the Scavengers may do their work early by 10 or 11 a Clock at farthest, which now is doing in the middle of the Day, and causes great stoppages to the *Castle*, *Custom House* and *Post Office*.

The City has often proposed to agree with Persons who would undertake Scavengers work, either by dividing the North side of the City from the South, or dividing the whole into four Parts and agree for each separate, and would I believe now agree with such Undertakers; or
if

if every Parish, or two or three of the Parishes in the heart of the City (that may easily joyn) will find Persons to undertake for their Parishes; the City will allow them as much as the Charge now stands the City in for the Scavengers work now done in such Parishes, which may be computed in Proportion to the City's Charge, for the whole City (if I mistake not) when such Proposals were formerly made by the City, most of the Streets (if not all) were measured both as to breadth and length, or directed to be so done. That by knowing the Number of Yards of Pavement to be accounted, and the Number contain'd in each Parish. Every Undertaker might have his proportionable Allowance regard, being had to some Streets more loaded with Dirt than others, and to the Distances, some Parishes are more than others, from the Places where the Dirt must be Lodged, and notwithstanding the Publication of the Citys Intentions, no Undertakers appeared to any purpose.

Considering the Numbers of Carts and Horses employ'd and kept by Persons in and about this City (where the Dirt is a valuable Manure) it is to be wonder'd, why some do not readily embrace and come into such Undertakings.

It is likely some would, provided the City will advance for them Money to buy Carts and Horses. Suppose the City would be willing to do so, or let Undertakers have their Carts and

Horses at very reasonable Rates, taking Payment out of their Agreement.

But where are there such Undertakers, as are able to give the City sufficient Security for their Performance and for saving the City harmless from the Penalties by Act of Parliament.

This being a sort of Work to which the Owners of Carts are Strangers, and different from what their Carts are employ'd in, for they know the Time it now takes in Loading and carrying to a certain Distance, and unloading, and compute their Rates accordingly.

But to employ Sweepers to attend their Carts and how long Time, the moyst Dirt takes up to fill a Cart and to draw it to the Place of unloading, (because they must drive very gently, or the Dirt will get over the Cart sides, and fall on the Streets again) these are Circumstances, which nothing but Tryals can satisfy them in. Therefore under this uncertainty we can't expect any will Propose but on extravagant Terms, that they may be sure of great Gain.

This being the Case, why should it not be agreed upon by your Lordship and the Committee, for management of the Scavengers Office? That a Tryal be made of one Parish, and two or more Carts set apart with proper Hands to clean the Streets of that Parish, and do no other Work till it is finished, beginning very early in the Morning, and continuing as is usual for working Carts, appointing a Person on purpose under Penalty not to quit those Carts, but to hasten the Work. But it is Necessary,

sary that publick Notice be given the Day before to the Inhabitants to sweep their Pavements to the Kennel, by the Time the Carts are to come.

This Experiment may certainly shew what can be done by two Carts and four Men in one Day if rightly employ'd.

And may be a Rule and encouragement for such as are minded to undertake how to make a reasonable Demand. If any better Methods can be put in Practice for the good of the City and removing the Clamours we lie under on this Head, I shall be very glad.

As to B R E A D, C O R N and

B R E A D.

The Act of Parliament directs, *That no Baker shall buy any Corn but in the publick Market.*

This City requires (as I am told) about 4000 Barrells a Week for Bread.

There is not entered before the *Lord Mayor* of Corn sold in Market Days, a third Part of 4000 Barrells, and adding the Corn Imported also, it will not make a Third, consequently above 2000 Barrells *per Week* is made into Bread, which my *Lord Mayor* has no Cognizance of therefore could not come into the *Affize*.

The

The Act no doubt intended that all Corn made into Bread should be entered and assized. The Bakers are obliged to buy no Corn but in the Market, but perhaps a Baker agrees for forty Barrells with a Farmer in the Market, ten perhaps are then in the Market, the other thirty the Baker agrees to have sent to his House at such Times as he directs, not on Market days, and perhaps has the thirty Barrells cheaper by a Shilling or more *per Bar-
rel* by this Method, and this escapes being assized : The Act altho' it says, *they shall buy all in the Market*, does not express all shall be brought into the Market which they buy.

Thus I suppose the Baker understands that Clause, that altho' he agree in the Markets, he may have it home when he please.

It has been objected, that all the Bread Corn could not be brought in on the two Market Days; to remedy this, two Market Days more were added for the bringing and entring Bread Corn.

And yet the former Practice continues.

If 2000 Barrels *per Week* cannot come into the Assize, and that these cost not the Bakers so much as the Corn that Week bought in the Market, and besides, that the Bakers get 17 or 18 Pecks instead of 16 Pecks allow'd to the Bar-
rel, altho' sold and brought to Markets.

Then these Advantages some Bakers certainly have, (altho' such of them have not, who only bake what they buy and bring home from Mar-
ket, and is duly enter'd, and comes into the
Assize)

Affize) the overplus Measure excepted, which all get.

Note, untill every Barrel made into Bread shall be duly enter'd, and come, into the Affize, it is not in the power of our Lord Mayors to make a full and true Affize, and consequently the Poor will suffer.

Therefore either the Act of Parliament must be alter'd, or the Lord Mayor must consult how the Toll-takers at the Entrances into the City, shall make Entries in their Books of the Number of Barrels of VVheat which come into the City every Day in the VWeek (for a Quantity comes in every Market Day, as well as on other Days, which escape entring) and that the Toll-mens Entry shall expresse from what Persons the Corn came, and to whom to be delivered, whether to Bakers or Merchants. This may make some Discoveries fit for the Lord Mayor's farther Enquiry; yet if Merchants or others will take in Corn, and let Bakers have it, Abuses will remain.

If Bakers be obliged to give in weekly an Account, upon Oath, of the Number of Barrels they baked, and the cost, this would effectually answer the End.

In *London* all Bread is made from the Meal which Bakers buy ready prepared, and comes to the Market Place called *Quanhive*, where thousands of Sacks are brought, and sold weekly, and of several sorts, proper to make fine and coarse Bread. The Affize or Price of Bread

is

is made from the weekly Sale and Prices, and without Complaints.

The Bread in *London* was (and I suppose is now) of one constant Weight, the Twelve-penny called a Peck Loaf, and the Six-penny a half Peck; the Reason why so called I conceive was, that a Peck of Meal went into the first, and half a Peck into the next.

And so when a Barrel, or sixteen Pecks, cost sixteen Shillings, the Peck Loaf was a Shilling (allowance to the Baker for his Charge first consider'd) in Quantity or Weight.

The Loaves being always of one Weight is a great Ease and Satisfaction to the Poor, two small Boards like Trenchers, a small bit of Board for a Beam, a little Pack-thread for Lines, and a Stone or two furnish them with a Pair of Scales, which few are without, some have better sorts.

As soon as they get home, they weigh their Loaf, and if faulty, return it, or complain.

As Meal rises, the Assize or Price does so too, a Penny, a Half-penny, or Farthing *per* Loaf, or more, and as Meal falls, the Price of the Loaf does so too.

And there are Tables to compute this; if we could fall into this Method, it would be a great Ease and Relief to our Poor, who now run about to get their Bread weigh'd, and sometimes pay for it, and if the Shop that weighs it be the Baker's Friend, the poor Body if told it is weight, he being ignorant, takes it for granted. This Trouble in weighing, no doubt, encourages

rages the making light Bread, for' they see that not one in ten weighs their Loaves.

Want of Farthings here is the only Objection I can see against the *London Method's* being put in Practice next Sessions of Parliament.

The Bakers are often complaining that they cannot live by the Allowance of six Shillings for baking two Barrels; and it is generally now said, they are a very poor Corporation, and this may be true; but they may thank themselves, if there has been bred up too many to the Trade, and foreign Bakers let in, who used to give more Bread for the same Money than they (being so affiz'd) and this they did to hinder the Poor of that Benefit, and therefore take a very small Quarterige for the Admittance of those Foreigners.

These Numbers have so encreased, that the Trade is not sufficient to allow them to grow rich, as formerly, when there were but few, and they eminent Bakers.

How many have set up the Baker's Trade within this 20 Years, who had not Stock to build an Oven, nor to buy four Barrels of Corn, but began upon Credit, and kept on, and increased so, as to Support a growing Family, and save Money too.

Most certain it is, that if the bakeing Trade had not produced great Profit, it must have been impossible from such very low Stocks and Beginnings, for Families to have been supported, and some advanced.

There is a Mystery in their Management, which none but themselves can unfold; we only know it partly lies in getting more Corn to the Barrel, buying low-price Corn out of Market, mixing Meals, putting in too much Water and Salt, not fully bakeing, grinding Bran, and sifting it, using that Meal in common Bread sold the Poor, and such like, and making light Bread besides.

They plead Ignorance to all this (the chief of them do at least) and they appeal to the having a Tryal made of the bakeing two Barrels of Wheat, and demand it as a Right, that as it appears by the Tryal, they may have the six Shillings for bakeing enlarged.

This Demand is generally made. In Winter when Corn is damp, and will not grind so as to produce the usual Quantity of Meal; but that a part sticks to the Husk or Bran.

Tryals may be made (as they would have it) on two Barrels bought in the Market; yet who but a Baker is able to manage this Tryal? The Bread made from this Tryal shall be fairly and openly made, and well baked; and after all Cost and Charges is computed, perhaps it will appear the Baker does not get the six Shillings, but it falls short, so that Allowances have been made them on such Occasions; but the Poor and others have grumbled, because it is said, that the two Barrels, of which the Tryal is made, were but sixteen Pecks to the Barrel, as the Act allows, but what they buy they get seventeen or eighteen Pecks to the Barrel.

That

That this Corn is bought at the top Price in the Market of the best Corn, and is enter'd, and comes into the Assize, whereas the half they bake does not; that the Bread of this Tryal is well made, without any bad mixture, and thoroughly baked.

But that not half of the Bread which is made and sold after such Tryals, and after an additional Allowance has been given, has been near so good as that made for Tryal, or perhaps made in that Week.

But the poor and crafty Bakers have fallen into their former Way of making bad Bread, not making it as they ought, &c. and it is impossible almost for the Lord Mayors to hunt these out, or find the bad Bread; great Part of such is sold to Country People. If the Master Bakers, for their own Sakes, would assist my Lord Mayor to make Discoveries, it would be much to their Credit.

So that in Fact, as Matters stand, the Master Bakers who do sollicite the Tryals, and get an Allowance, and would make very good Bread, and do so for some time, yet they do procure this Allowance for a Number of others, who do not deserve it.

As the Bakers demand to have Tryals made, and their Allowance advanced, as having a Right by some Act of Parliament.

So the Lord Mayor requires of them, if they expect such Tryal and Allowance.

That all the Bread Corn they bake, shall come into the Market, and there be enter'd in

order, to make a full and fair Affize, That they shall not buy or receive more than sixteen standard Pecks to the Barrel, as the Act requires, for accordingly must the Affize be made.

If they will not comply, but expect an Allowance, and yet continue in their usual Methods, they would by this Tolleration get more than double Allowance.

I have been obliged to enlarge very much upon our Bread, Corn, and Bakers, because it is a Subject which for many Years hath occasion'd many Complaints and Claimours against our Lord Mayors, in hopes that from what I have observed, or by some other means, Ways may be found out, both to allow the honest and fair dealing Bakers a comfortable Livelyhood, and the City good Bread and full Weight.

I have thus set forth what occur'd to me relating to the several Acts of Parliament, for the Amending our Pavements, and preventing Incroachments; also what relates to the Scaengers. And the Supplying the City with Water; and what relates to our Bread, Corn, and Bakers, as being the most material Articles for Regulating the good Government of the City.

I am, *myself*, a Stranger to what relates to the Acts about our Night Watches, and our Lamps for Lighting the City, only this I crave Leave to observe, that if any Persons concerned in the Regulating of the Watch of any sort, either Constables or others, have any Interest
in

in publick Cellars, or Houses wherein the Watchmen can have Credit, or liberty to drink, either before or after the Watches are set, I do affirm, that this Allowance does often disorder our Watchmen, and is the occasion of many Disputes and Quarrels, which otherwise would not happen; and that if the Watchmen employ'd, would take some Hour of rest, and take their homely Food before they came to the Watch, they would be better able to perform their Duty. That untill this Course be taken, or some as effectual, we are not to expect a well-govern'd Watch.

It would be a Terrour to the Night-walkers, Drunkards, and Quarelsome Persons, if to every Watch-house there were join'd a Cage, so called, as there was, and I think is, to that at the Corner of *St. Stephen's Green* near *King-street*, and now is in *London* to many.

To which place Persons as aforesaid, are immediately confin'd as soon as taken, and there to remain till ten a Clock next Morning, when they may be seen, and taken before my Lord Mayor.

No manner of Liquor or Candle-light to be allow'd them, and only a Bench to sit on.

If unruly and abusive, to be set in the Stocks fixed in each Cage for that purpose.

This would bring our VVatches into more Credit, and into the Custom of *London*, as I have observed before.

There

There is one Article more which concerns the City in general very much.

That is, the want of a Court of Conscience here as in *London*, and other principal Cities in *England*, for the determining small Debts under forty Shillings.

The Grants for those Courts express that it was for the Ease of the chief Magistrates, to give them time to mind other important Business of the City.

VVe want this Act not only for the Purposes aforesaid, but to have confirm'd by a Law what we do only, by antient Custom (as I take it) at present.

Our Lord Mayor has a very slavish time in attending on this VVork every Day, the City being much enlarged, and Inhabitants more numerous, by which these petty Causes are multiply'd, and the more, as the Litigious and Vexatious find a daily easy Access to the Lord Mayor for a Hearing.

Six Pence *per Warrant* is paid Lord Mayor's Clerk, six Pence to a Constable for serving it, besides the Expence the Person taken is at, in an Ale-house, and Loss perhaps of a Day's work, and most of these for Drinking Debts, perhaps of a Shilling or two.

If our Lord Mayor would allow but three or four Days at most for this VVork, he would have time to attend on the other weighty Affairs of the City, and yet Dispatch most of the petty Causes, since the Business of the Lord Mayor's

Mayor's Clerk is become a great Perquisite to what it was some Years past.

Least the Lord Mayor should be a Loser by our having a Court of Conscience, I proposed that the Act should allow the Lord Mayor to Sign, and Issue all VVarrants for small Debts, and his Clerk, or Deputy, be Clerk to that Court, that the needful Charges of the Court being defrayed out of the VVarrants, the Lord Mayor's Clerk to have the Overplus.

This consider'd, with the excusing of our Lord Mayor from the Slavery, I shou'd think would make him amends, and I hope the next Session of Parliament we shall have an Act to this, or the like Effect.

Besides, the weighty Affairs which I mentioned, and which call upon our Lord Mayor, (some of them daily.)

We have Committees for many other Affairs of the City, and our Lord Mayor is at the Head of every Committee, and it lies upon him to appoint Time and Place for inspection and dispatch. It is our grand Quarterly Assemblys, who nominate these Committees and direct what is to be done by them, and to be reported to the next grand Assembly.

Some of these References to Committees have been transfer'd from one Assembly to another for many Assemblys.

I have heard our Lord Mayors complain that Committee Men tho' duly summon'd, have so neglected that they could not get a *Quorum* to do

do business, this I have known to be true and the *Lord Mayor* and *Aldermen* to remedy this, were willing that each *Alderman* not attending (without just Cause shown) should forfeit half a Crown, if the Commons would agree that any Member of theirs not attending should forfeit eighteen Pence, but this Offer was rejected by the Commons, I was told. I know that Committees have been summoned to meet at the *Tholsel*, and I have seen many Committee Men come there to do Business, but finding the *Lord Mayor* so engaged in the hearing petty Causes and so crowded, that they could not come near him. They have gone away, and some have express'd themselves, as if they thought the *Lord Mayor*, did not give that Regard to Committees as was expected.

I conceive, if our *Lord Mayor* will attend at the Place and Time he appoints Committees to meet, and not let any other Business break in upon him, for so long as he thinks reasonable for dispatch of Business, it is probable Committees will be more ready to attend.

Our Markets, and especially our Fish-market requires a great deal of help from our *Lord Mayor*, and to find out the Practices of our Clerks of the Market and Engrocers. I have heard a *Lord Chief Baron* in his charge to a *Lord Mayor* when sworn at the *Exchequer*) tell him he ought to regulate the extravagant Demands of the Market People.

By

By this I should think the *Lord Mayor* had a Power to set Rates, but I have not known it practiced.

The Fish-sellers are grown most Extravagant in their Demands, for such as have Money, buy up great Quantities, they parcel out some to other Women to sell and give them such share of Profit. But some of the best Fish they conceal and shew but a few at a Time, so get their own Rates from the first Buyers, thinking they are scarce as they tell them, and many other Contrivances they have to raise the price of Fish, they passing through three or four Hands from the Country Fishermen to the Time they are last sold by strolling Women in the Market. If none but the first buyer from the Fishermen be allowed to expose the Fish in the Market, it might prevent the Abuse in some Measure.

The Gardeners Market for selling Roots and all sorts of Garden Ware for House use, being on the open Street and Key near the New-Market, is a very great nuisance to the Neighbourhood and Passengers. The Place being too narrow and improper, for the Filth cannot be taken away, and street cleaned soon enough in a Morning to prevent the Nuisance.

The Remedy for this is under Consideration by order of Assembly.

In London, Poor Women with large Baskets are only allowed in the Markets to carry home what is bought, and will carry a great Load on their Heads, For

For whole Sheep, Quarters of Beef, and such like, Men and Carts are allow'd.

Why may not our poor Women be thus employ'd? we have enough of them half starving, and some way found to banish the young, idle, and debauch'd Girls, young Fellows, and Lads from pest'ring our Markets, and oblige them to do some other Work.

And why may not our poor decay'd old Men and none others be allowed to ply as Porters at Taverns, Ale-houses, or Coffee-houses, for the carrying of Letters, Messages, and small Parcels in the City and serve Tradesmen. And these should have Badges or Tickets given them by the *Lord Mayor*, and some Porters allow'd for heavy Burthens, while the idle Youth might be employ'd in some other Way, or sent to the Plantations.


Our Prisons, viz. the *Marshalsea*, *New-gate* and *Bridewell*, do require the Inspection of our *Lord Mayor* and his Endeavours, to get them regulated.

London has lately given a good Example as to *New-gate*, by admitting a Person to be Keeper, without Fee or Reward, and setting such Fees as he shall take, and all to prevent the Oppression of the Miserable.

Our *Bridewell* may be made much more useful, and many idle Hands more than are at present set to Work there.

As to our *Marshalsea* I am a Stranger to the Management there, but there have been great Complaints even by Parliament.

This

 This I have often observed, and perhaps the Case is still the same ; That the Officers in these Places and in all other Offices and Employments under the City, when any Complaints have been made against their Conduct and they have been required to shew by what Rules and Orders they acted.

They have pleaded, that they observed the same Rules and Methods their Predecessors did.

It may not, I conceive be amiss to have Searchers made into our Books, what were the Rules established, to be observed by every Officer, for the due Execution of his Office.

If none such can be found, or any are defective, why may not new ones be made ?

That our *Lord Mayor*, and others may know what each Officer ought to do in his Function.

Our Commission of Array, touching our Militia, ought to be taken into Consideration. The Reasons known why there is such an Aver-sion in our Citizens against taking Commissions and why the Inhabitants will not submit to be under Command and Discipline, that upon extraordinary Occasion (as such may happen) to require the Army to be drawn off from this City ; there may be Troops and Companies of Militia ready to take the Guards at least. I have heard Persons have excused themselves from taking Commissions, because they have been attended with too great Expence and loss

of Time from their Callings, and because many of those who ought to appear and be under their Command at the Times of drawing out, would neither attend nor send others in their Places, nor pay those Men whom the Officers procured to do their Duty, so that the Disputes about this affair have often created Enemys to the Officers, and been a great Discouragement to them. Whether the *Lord Mayor* and the Commissioners have power sufficient in them, to make Articles to be observed and cause them to be put in Execution touching the forming a Militia. I know not, but if they have not, it's Pity that some new Power were not granted to put our Militia upon a better Footing.

Our *Poor-House*, or *Work-House*, often requires our *Lord Mayor's* meeting with the Governors and Court of Assistants and frequent Troubles besides.

And our *Blue Coat Hospital* the like.

Our Bridges and the Walls of our Keys which joyn the River, often want the *Lord Mayor's* Directions for Reparations, especially for the removal of Encroachments by Timber and other Goods unshipped, left upon and taking up great part of the Keys for Weeks and Months, as if such part of the Streets were their own Yards.

The publick watering place set a-part by the City near the Barracks which lately reached from *Arran-Bridge* to *Bloody-Bridge*, and was looked upon no more than necessary for so great

great a City to answer the droves of Cattle coming to Market, and the numbers of *Horses* and Travellers entring the City, being set for the most part, the remainder being looked upon sufficient for the Purposes.

Yet this Remainder is mostly taken up by Floats of Timber brought there as if the Place was made on purpose for their use, and one third part at least is annoy'd by the grand Sewer brought in there from the necessary Houses, Sinks, &c. belonging to the *Blue Coat Hospital*, and which creates a black and filthy Mud, which together with Sewers made from the Houses on the East side of this watering place are become great Nufances.

The City Scavengers Carts which would come there to be washed, and their *Horses* washed and water'd, have not had Room to do it as I have often observed.

The Remedy for this is, that the *Blue Coat Hospital* be requir'd to remove their Nufance by carrying on their Shore along the Wall that now joyns it on the West about 20 Yards. So that the Tide may have a Power to carry off that Shore Water and Filth, which now it has not.

And that the owner or Inhabitant of the House built on the East side of our watering place be obliged to stop up the Sewers made unto the watering place, and run the same along their own Yards to the River.

Also

Also for preventing Floats of Timber being brought in there.

The *Lord Mayor* may give publick Notice, that all Owners of such Timber cease to bring any there, but to Land them at the Key of some Timber-Yard, as they and the owners can agree, or if this will not do.

That the Committee appointed for the Regulating that watering place, do direct Piles at proper Distances to be placed so far into the River, as may both prevent Floats of Timber being brought in there, and be also a Security to Cattle and Carriages from going in too far and too deep, by which both Coaches, Horses and other Cattle have been carried down the River and lost. So that Piles are necessary, were it but for this purpose. The Piles need only appear a Foot or two above high Water mark at such Places.

I have enlarged so much on this Article, because I have heard some Persons say, when I have complained of the Nufances and Incroachments that the watering place was well enough, and to that purpose.

And so of the Keys and Streets joyning whereon Timber is laid, that the Passages or Streets are wide enough.

Note, That the Key leading from the Coal-Key to Essex-Bridge, is so encroached upon by Coopers and others, that it is scarce passible for a Coach, therefore they are obliged to make use of the Blind-Key